

Dorking Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1904.

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Prepared in accordance with Sec. 14 of the Order of the Local Government Board dated 23rd March, 1891, Regulating the Duties of Medical Officers of Health.

DORKING URBAN DISTRICT.

Area and Situation - 1,340 Acres, part of the Parish of Dorking.

	1881	1891	1901
Number of Inhabited Houses at Census ...	1212	1425	1619
Population at Census	6328	7132	7670
Number of Persons per House	5.2	5.0	4.74

Medical Officer's Report for the Year 1904.

I.—Population, Births, and Deaths, 1904.

POPULATION.—The population of the district in the middle of the year under review may be estimated at 7860, assuming that it has increased since the Census, 1901, at the same rate as it did during the preceding decade.

BIRTHS.—The number of Births registered in the district during the year was 164, giving a *Birth-Rate* of 20.9 per thousand of the population, as against an average rate of 22.0 for the last ten years.

DEATHS.—The number of Deaths registered in the district during the year was 119, of which 83 occurred in the town, 23 in the Workhouse Infirmary, 10 in the Cottage Hospital, and 3 in the "Woodhurst" Sanatorium; the last were non-residents belonging to outside districts; of the 33 deaths in the other two institutions, 17 were those of persons belonging to Dorking, and 16 of persons from parishes in the Rural District. After deducting these 19 deaths of non-parishioners and adding that of a parishioner who died in the Hampstead Workhouse, there remain 101 deaths, which represent an *Annual Death-Rate* of 12.7 per thousand of the estimated population, as against an average of 14.4 for the previous ten years. Sixty-five deaths were those of males, and 36 of females.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—Thirteen deaths were attributed to *Epidemic Diseases*, two to *Influenza*, six to *Phthisis*, twenty-three to other *Diseases of the Lungs*, seven to *Cancer*, thirteen to *Diseases of the Heart*, one to *Appendicitis*, and four to *Old Age*.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The deaths of *Infants under one year* were 16 in number and were at the rate of 98 per thousand registered births, which is also the rate for the previous ten years. *Measles*, *Whooping Cough* and *Tubercular Peritonitis* each caused one death, and *Diarrhoea* and *Lung Diseases* three each; 14 of the children were males and two females. One of the children, who died at the Workhouse, belonged to Abinger Parish.

The ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE was 1.65 per thousand of the population.

II.—Infectious Diseases.

SMALL POX. No case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER. In July, five children failed with this disease at the Workhouse. Apart from these, ten cases only were notified in eight houses during the year, and there was no special incidence at any time, nor in any part of the District.

DIPHThERIA. Two cases only were notified.

ENTERIC FEVER. In March, a young man came into the district suffering from the disease, and in October and December two other cases were notified, the origin of which could not be traced. One of the patients was removed to the Cottage Hospital.

DIARRHOEA caused two deaths in August and three in September. The ages of the patients were 14 days, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, and 67 years, respectively.

MEASLES was very prevalent in a severe form during the last four months of the year, and caused seven deaths. Any attempt to check the spread and fatality of this disease, one of the most serious of the acute infectious fevers, appears to be hopeless so long as it is regarded as "only a child's complaint." During the sixteen years, 1886-1901, over 200,000 deaths were attributed to this disease in England and Wales, or more than those caused by Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever together; and many other deaths were, no doubt, caused by later complications following an attack. With the adoption of simple precautions and treatment, many thousands of these deaths might have been avoided; but children in an acutely infectious state are sent to school for the first three or four days of the illness, until the rash appears, and they are allowed to go out as soon as the symptoms begin to abate, with the result that fatal lung or other trouble ensues.

WHOOPIING COUGH caused one death.

Of PUERPERAL FEVER one fatal case occurred in December.

ERYSIPELAS. Two cases were notified.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS. One specimen only, from a patient suspected to have Diphtheria, was examined at the Lister Institute, at the expense of the Council, with negative result.

TUBERCULAR DISEASE. The deaths from *Pulmonary Consumption* were six in number, and were at the rate of 0·76 per thousand of the population, which is below the average for the previous ten years. Three other deaths occurred in the Sanatorium. There was one death from *Abdominal Tuberculosis*.

No application was made for the Bacteriological examination of any specimens from patients suspected to be suffering from Phthisis.

In six cases rooms, which had been occupied by Phthisical patients, were fumigated by the Inspector.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL. In the course of the year the Joint Hospital Board erected a block of brick buildings, consisting of a Laundry, Disinfecting Room, Mortuary, and Coal Store, on the site at Logmore Lane, Westcott.

Ten cases of Scarlet Fever—including four from the Workhouse—and one of Diphtheria, from the Urban District, and one case of Scarlet Fever from the Rural District, were isolated in the iron building erected in 1902.

OTHER PRECAUTIONS. After each case of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and Puerperal Fever, the infected rooms were fumigated, and, in most cases, the walls were stripped and lime-washed, articles likely to retain infection were removed for disinfection, from four houses, to Messrs. Holloway's, at Hackbridge, and in other cases were destroyed. The various Infants' Schools were closed in the autumn on account of the outbreak of Measles.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. In June the Surrey County Council held enquiries at Reigate and Kingston, under the Isolation Hospital Acts, into the question of the provision of Hospital accommodation for cases of Small Pox, and they subsequently issued an Order, including this district in a Hospital District consisting of all parts of the County which had not already provided for the isolation of this disease. The District Council appealed to the Local Government Board against this Order, on the ground that they had means of isolation at the Logmore Lane Hospital.

III.—Summary of other proceedings which were taken under the Sanitary Acts, etc.

1.—HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES. The negotiations, which the Council had opened with the neighbouring owners of land, with a view to an arrangement for the provision of the necessary additional house-accommodation for the working classes, having failed in their object, the Council applied to the Local Government Board for permission to lease that portion of the Sewage Farm, which is at too high a level to receive sewage by gravitation, for the erection of workmen's dwellings. An enquiry was held in September by Major Norton, R.E., but the matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

Systematic inspections of houses were continued during the year by the Inspector and myself, including house-to-house inspection which I made in Cotmandene Square, Spring Gardens, and Church Street Cottages. I made representations that a house in Rose's Cottages and two houses in Cotmandene Square were unfit for human habitation, chiefly owing to dampness and want of repair; notices were served and the three cottages were repaired and put into habitable condition by the respective owners. A considerable number of other cottages were cleansed, repaired, and otherwise improved, under notice from the Council, as set out in the Inspector's Report on page 7.

The Council prosecuted and obtained a Justices' Order in the case of a recurring nuisance from the accumulation of manure close to some cottages off the High Street.

Flushing apparatus was provided for 42 hand-flushed closets during the year, and galvanized iron ashbins were provided for 31 houses, under notice from the Council.

2.—The SLAUGHTER HOUSES were inspected and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

3.—COMMON LODGING HOUSES. There is now only one Common Lodging House on the Register. This was visited by the Inspector and myself, and found to be kept in a fair condition.

4.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS. The Model Regulations of the Local Government Board were adopted in 1899. During the year the names of the occupiers of two milkshops were registered, and at the end of the year there were upon the Register the names of 19 persons, eight of whom have farms in the Rural District and only purvey in this district; of the remaining 11, three only are cowkeepers. On inspection of each of the premises in the town, I found that the dairies and milkshops were well kept. At one of the farms the cowsheds are well constructed and well kept brick buildings; a scheme for the better drainage of these premises is under consideration; at the second farm the sheds are of wood; they were limewashed and the paving was repaired during the year, and the occupier has undertaken to carry out certain improvements in the lighting and ventilation of one of the sheds; only one cow is kept by the third cowkeeper, who limewashed the shed and dairy at my request.

5.—HOUSE REFUSE. The domestic refuse from private houses was collected weekly by the Council's staff. It is removed to a brickfield on the Holmwood.

6.—HOUSE DRAINAGE. The Surveyor informs me that the drains of 30 houses were connected with the sewers during the year.

7.—WORKS OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The Council adopted a scheme prepared by Mr. Strachan, C.E., for remodelling the method of treatment at the sewage farm, and they applied to the Local Government Board for their sanction to borrow £4,500. An enquiry into the application was held in September by Major Norton, R.E., but the whole matter has been deferred, as the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal propose, with the consent of the District Council, to carry out a series of experiments at the Works, for the purpose of determining the relative value of different methods of treating domestic sewage.

Plans for the proposed sewer in Pixham Lane have not yet been received.

8.—NEW BUILDINGS. The Surveyor informs me that 16 sets of plans of new buildings were submitted to the Council for approval under the Bye-laws. The Council amended certain Bye-laws, but the sanction of the Local Government Board had not been obtained by the end of the year.

9.—WATER SUPPLY. Early in the year the Water Company were able to bring into use the New Well in Station Road, which provides a supply of 100,000 gallons daily, and they ceased to pump from the wells at Tower Hill and Castle Gardens. The quarterly analysis of the water from the New Well and from the Redlands and the Rookery springs were carried out, as in previous years, by Dr. Rideal. The first examination of the new supply did not give a very satisfactory result chemically, as is frequently the case with new wells, but the water soon showed improvement. One sample from the Redlands was found to contain a quantity of brown vegetable matter, which is apt to appear in this water after heavy rains. The bacteriological examinations gave no indication at any time of organic contamination.

10.—BATHS. The Surveyor informs me that the attendance at the Swimming Bath during the year was 7162, and the number of persons using the hot baths was 639.

IV.—Factories and Workshops.

In a large majority of the workshops on the register, not more than five persons are employed. In the course of Inspection by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, a few minor defects only were discovered, the drains and sanitary accommodation having been dealt with in previous years.

SANITARY CONDITION. (A). *Cleanliness.* Six workshops were cleansed at the request of the Sanitary Inspector.

(B). *Air-space and Overcrowding.* In nearly all the workshops notices of the cubic capacity of the rooms, and of the number of persons who may be employed, are affixed. There is a tendency among the occupiers of workshops to belittle the importance of an observance of the section of the Act dealing with overcrowding; the minimum space allowed by the Act, however, is so small, that it is imperative to enforce a strict compliance with the requirements of the Act in this respect. One case of overcrowding was abated.

(c). *Ventilation* was found to be satisfactory in all cases.

(d). *Drainage of Floors.* The paving of two Laundries was repaired.

(E). *Sanitary Conveniences.* Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, is in force in the district. The only premises, in which 20 persons are employed, are provided with two water closets and an urinal for the use of the employees.

BAKEHOUSES. Only one certificate for an underground bakehouse was issued, after the lighting and ventilation had been improved and the inner surfaces of the walls had been cemented.

All the premises were found to be kept in compliance with the special sanitary requirements for bakehouses.

HOME WORK. No lists of home-workers were received.

REGISTER. At the end of the year the following premises were upon the Register :—

Total number of Workshops	89
Retail Bakehouses	9
Laundries.....	5
Domestic Workshops.....	26
Other Workshops	49

NOTICES. No workshops were discovered in which women or young persons were employed where no abstract of the Act was exhibited. H.M. Inspector of Factories gave notice of two premises which were not upon the Register.

J. WILLIAMSON, M.D.

HOMELEIGH,

HEATHCOTE ROAD, EPSOM,

January, 1905.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1904.

Number of complaints received in writing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300
Number of Houses at which Nuisances were discovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	269
Number of Nuisances remedied without being reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of Houses where Nuisances were remedied after report	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Number of formal Notices served for the abatement of Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Number of times that legal proceedings were taken for the abatement of Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Particulars of Work done by Owners or Occupiers, in compliance with Notice :

Number of filthy houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of damp unwholesome houses provided with eaves' gutters or rainwater pipes, or otherwise repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Number of houses closed as unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses in which overcrowding was abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of houses for which efficient ventilation was provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of water-closets provided to old houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of privies converted into water-closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of water-closets for which cisterns and water were provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of houses at which the drains were cleansed, laid, or relaid, ventilated, trapped, or disconnected from the house pipes or rain-water pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of houses at which dustbins or ashpits were provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Number of slaughter houses cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of premises from which animals, improperly kept, were removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of offensive accumulations, &c., removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

FOODS :—Number of seizures as unfit for human consumption —

WATER SUPPLY :—Number of samples sent to the Medical Officer of Health for Analysis ... —

Number of houses supplied by owners with water from the Waterworks after notice under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1875 —

Number of wells closed or abandoned, as being polluted —

G. SOMERS MATHEWS.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages.					Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
894	7,300	143	19·5	8	56	102	14·0	23	7	...	95	13·0		
895	7,355	174	23·5	9	52	100	13·5	23	11	2	91	12·3		
896	7,410	153	20·6	16	105	108	14·5	18	12	2	98	13·1		
897	7,465	179	23·9	13	73	107	14·3	22	14	1	94	12·5		
898	7,520	164	21·8	30	183	150	19·9	25	12	1	139	18·4		
899	7,675	169	22·3	25	148	124	16·3	22	13	5	116	15·3		
900	7,630	174	22·8	15	86	126	16·5	27	18	3	111	14·5		
901	7,685	162	21·0	11	68	135	17·3	35	17	5	123	16·0		
902	7,740	170	22·0	20	118	109	14·1	24	5	6	110	14·2		
903	7,800	175	22·4	16	91	123	15·8	32	12	5	116	15·0		
Averages years 1894-1903	7,560	166	22·0	16	98	118	15·6	25	12	3	109	14·4		
904	7,860	164	20·9	16	98	119	15·2	36	19	1	101	12·7		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District are the Workhouse, the Cottage Hospital, and the “Woodhurst” Sanatorium.

The death in Column 11 occurred in the Hampstead Workhouse; the corresponding figures for previous years refer to deaths in the Brookwood County Asylum.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	1,329.	Total population at all ages.....	7,670	} At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses.....	1,619	
		Average number of persons per house	4·74	

The Union Workhouse is situated within the District.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT IN 1904.							Number of cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
Membranous croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	..	...	...	2	...	...
Scarlet fever	15	...	5	7	1	2	...	10
Typhus fever .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	3	...	...	1	1	1	...	1
Relapsing fever .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	..	...	...	1	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Totals	23	...	5	9	3	6	...	12

TABLE III.—Shewing the number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Zymotic Diseases and from Phthisis, and the number of cases notified, in each of the twelve years 1893—1904.

Year.	Small Pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Diar- rhœa.	Measles.	Whoop'g Cough.	Phthisis.
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.
1893	5	1	9	...	11	2	...	...	...	3	1	9
1894	...	...	18	...	13	1	3	1	1	...	5	8
1895	...	...	13	...	9	2	1	...	...	1	1	8
1896	1	...	11	...	15	1	2	1	3	...	6	12
1897	...	...	...	...	24	5	2	2	1	...	1	10
1898	...	...	1	...	44	5	3	...	5	3	3	4
1899	...	...	8	...	26	3	2	..	9	...	...	7
1900	...	...	13	...	23	9	1	...	2	...	2	9
1901	...	...	31	...	17	2	1	..	2	2	...	11
1902	1	1	3	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	4	6
1903	...	...	24	...	2	...	6	1	...	...	3	9
1904	...	...	15	...	2	...	3	...	5	7	1	6

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Un- der 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- w'ds.	
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	7	1	5	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric Fever . ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	2	...	2	..	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Diarrhœa	5	3	1	...	...	...	1	1
Enteritis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	6	..	...	...	1	5	...	3
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	1	...	...	...	..	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	7	...	...	...	...	2	5	6
Bronchitis	12	1	...	...	...	4	7	2
Pneumonia	9	1	2	...	...	3	3	2
Pleurisy	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver } ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Veneral Diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	..	...
Premature Birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	..	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart Diseases	13	...	...	...	...	5	8	3
Accidents	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
All other Causes	28	3	2	...	...	8	15	15
ALL CAUSES	101	15	12	1	1	31	41	36